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Askwith International Media Awareness

Project: Scope and Depth of Asian Movies Collection

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**CAPSTONE PROJECT | AUG 21, 2020**

# **Askwith International Media Awareness Project: Scope and Depth of Asian Movies Collection**

Michigan Library Scholar : Yifei Yao

Mentors: Chloe Herl, Laurie Shaw-Smith, Sheila McFolley



# Learn Together Remotely

## June

- Trainings
- Get to know the team
- Think what's useful

## July

- Weekly check-ins
- Decide on the deliverable-- an online exhibit !

## August

- Omeka & Qualtrics are my friends
- Feedback from mentors

## Exploration

- Make movie & artist lists using Aleph & Catalog
- Connect with Library specialists and communication expert
- Brainstorm: online film festival, movie posters, video essays ?
- Create a work plan

## Research

- Watch movies & interviews
- Read books & papers & reviews
- Omeka trainings
- Drafts

## Design

- Write, revise, write
- Keep accessibility in mind
- Design what-to-watch quiz that highlights lesser-known films

# Final Product

An online exhibit that features  
two eminent Asian directors

Engagement | Publicity

## Exhibit Contents

### Introduction

Hirokazu Kore-eda

Civic Responsibility in A  
Gray World

What Makes a Family?

Healing

Loss and Incompletion

Thinker, Writer, Director, Editor

Abbas Kiarostami

Childhood and Education

Road

Ambiguity: City Chapters

Experimentation

## Introduction

An exhibit to highlight some of the Asian films of the University of Michigan Askwith Media Library.



### Hirokazu Kore-eda

Hirokazu Kore-eda is both a leading pioneer in the "New Japanese New Wave" and a familiar face abroad. Constantly gracing..



### Civic Responsibility in A Gray World

Kore-eda's humanistic perspective and personal touch with social issues heighten our understanding of the complex society we are in. In..



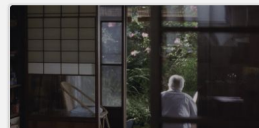
### What Makes a Family?

Kore-eda is known for mastering family dramas, especially good at portraying non-traditional families. When his interest in complexity and versatility..



### Healing

Kore-eda's characters often experience liminality, a transitional state where they don't want to give up on the past and cannot..



### Loss and Incompletion

Loss, memory, and trauma are recurring themes in Kore-eda's work. While it's tempting to associate them with the aesthetics and..



### Thinker, Writer, Director, Editor

Kore-eda never shies away from admitting the "TV genes" in his films. He learned from his predecessors that TV embraces..



### Abbas Kiarostami

Blending appreciable acumen with natural simplicity, Abbas Kiarostami earns global recognition with his idiosyncratic practice. Not confined in the language..



### Childhood and Education

Kiarostami's early short films are sponsored by Iran's institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, with an..



- **Interactive links**
- **Encourage further exploration by providing supplemental materials**
- **Spark interest with carefully selected photos**
- **Web accessibility initiative: captions**

## Loss and Incompletion

Loss, memory, and trauma are recurring themes in Kore-eda's work. While it's tempting to associate them with the aesthetics and appreciation of imperfection in Japanese culture, Kore-eda insists he tries to tell the story of how the living people adapt and recover from sadness, emphasizing people's resilience in the midst of grief. During the shooting of two documentaries, [Lessons from a Calf \(1991\)](#) and [However... in the time of Public Welfare Cuts \(1991\)](#), Kore-eda observed people's resilience and creativity when mourning the death. Through showing us a woman's mourning journey in profoundly poetic *Maboroshi*, Kore-eda shares his belief that death is a natural part of the living experience.



"Grumpy father sits alone in the backyard. His back view is seen through a wooden frame sliding glass door." Hirokazu Kore-eda. *Still Walking*. 2008.

## Asian Film Recommendations

I want a movie that feels

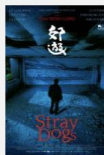
Melancholic

Insightful

Intense

Cheerful

Pick a movie poster you vibe with



Pick your ideal film's release time

before 80s

around 1990s

21st century

Does not matter

What's your music taste?

Electronic Dance Music

Folk

Rock

Jazz

Theme of your ideal film should be



Romance



Children, family drama



Comedy



Crime, Murder, Political drama

Where do you want to spend your vacation?

South Asia

East Asia

Southeast Asia

At home watching films from  
Askwith Asian film collections

West Asia

# A recommendation quiz that feeds in your preference and returns our recommendations!

12:29



Movies Have Been Selected For  
You !



**A Bright Summer Day (1991,  
Taiwan)**

# Challenges

The background image shows a light-colored car driving away on a dirt road that winds through a dry, hilly landscape. The terrain is covered with sparse, dry vegetation and several bare trees, suggesting an arid or semi-arid environment. The overall tone is warm and earthy, with shades of brown and tan.

## Writing

- Handle complicated topics: national cinema and the idea of Eastern
- Blogging insecurities

## Time Management

- Divide the big project into small tasks
- Quantify my work
- Managing “perfectionism” in workplace

## Communication

- Navigate remote work communication challenges
- Do work meaningful for both the library and myself



# Solutions

Don't overcomplicate things! Accept the fact that I don't know

## Writing

- Get more educated on the topic through reading and listening
- Clarify the intended result for the audience
- Write, think, revise

## Time Management

- Build personal accountability- focus on measurable goals
- Stay organized- build a workflow
- Be flexible; value the effort & learning process

## Communication

- Communication redundancy is ok
- Regular check-ins
- Learn from my colleague Sally
- Use library's inner resources
- When in doubt, ask

# Reflections

• Creativity	• Adaptability
• Initiative	• Collaboration
• Research/analytical skills	• Quality of Work
• Problem-solving skills	• Professionalism
• Time management	• Integrity
• Communication skills	• Judgment
• Interpersonal/intercultural skills	• Maturity





# Learned

- ✓ Skills: Qualtrics, Omeka
- ✓ Independent research skills:
  - time management, my workflow
  - useful websites, note-taking, writing
  - creative solutions
  - more confidence
- ✓ Professionalism:
  - efficiency, make prioritization decisions
  - communication skills
  - work is only one component
- ✓ Library resources
- ✓ impact & accessibility

# Next Step

- Social Media Promotions
- Expand the exhibit content
- Write a work instruction
- Explore web design

